List of essential medicines

2278. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have substantially expanded the national list of essential medicines;

(b) if so, whether it has added as many as 71 new medicines and deleted three from the 1996 list of 279 drugs and the number of medicines has now grown to 347;

(c) whether the list has been expanded after a gap of over six years;

(d) if so, whether Government have now decided to review the list every two years; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, the revised list has 354 drugs instead of 347.

(d) and (e) The list is to be reviewed periodically.

Reform in medical system

†2279. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a constant increase in the funds spent by Government on health during the last few years;

(b) if so, the amount spent during the years 1998-99 and 2002-03, separately;

(c) the system of medicine in which reforms have been carried out during the said period; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of such reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The approved plan outlay for the D/o Health (including Indian Systems of Medicine) has increased from Rs. 1195.20 crore in 1998-99 to Rs. 1700 crore in 2002-03. As against this, the expenditure has increased from Rs. 862.05 crore to Rs. 1480.00 crore (RE) in the corresponding period.

(c) and (d) Various health sector reforms, encompassing different systems of medicine, have been underway in the country during the said period. The Centre has played an important role in this process and undertaken various policy initiatives aimed at improving resource availability and efficiency in the delivery of health services. Some of these initiatives, include *inter-alia*, the reorganization and restructuring of the existing health care infrastructure at primary, secondary and tertiary care levels; horizontal integration of some of the vertical programmes including the formation of a single health and family welfare society at State and district levels; building up an effective system of disease surveillance; building up an efficient logistic system for supply of drugs, levying of user charges for health care services from people above the poverty line, involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the planning and monitoring of programmes and integrating Indian Systems of Medicine into National Health Programmes. The State Health Systems Project with the objective of providing quality health care services to people in the rural areas as also viable first referral mechanism is presently under implementation in seven States with World Bank assistance. Certain other States are also proposed to be taken up in a phased manner.

Reconstitution of CCIM

2280. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Council of Indian Medicine has completed its term;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the new Council has not been constituted so far and the probable date of its reconstitution;